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This, the May/June 2014 edition, marks a milestone in the publication of the NI bulletin. This is the first edition created in color and destined for electronic publication. With very few exceptions all images are in color. The previous edition had some color but this one is full color. The print version remains black & white.

We have some exciting, interesting and important articles in this edition. One unusual feature is that we have three separate articles on African numismatics. Two of them address recent coinage of the 21st century (Baker's on Nigeria and a press release from the Bank of Botswana) and the third by Dennis Gill concerning an apparently unique gold medal of Ethiopia. While researching the Botswana article I found it interesting that the highest value coin, the 5 Pula, features a caterpillar called the phane worm (in English *mopane* and pronounced mow-PAW-knee). This whetted my appetite to learn more which led me to research it. As I found out mopane is a traditional subsistence food source in southern Africa. Today commercial harvesting is also practiced providing income for some but pushing others out. I desire to publish more articles on African numismatics as it is under represented in the bulletin so please do remember us when you have some something to offer or recommend!



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The Assayers of the Mint of Potosí during the Reign of King Philip III (1598-1621)

Jorge A. Proctor, NI #2732

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“DESCRIPTIO ARGENTI FODINARVM POTOSÍ,” engraving by Jodocus Hondius, as published in Petrus [Pierre, Pieter] Bertius’ *Tabularum Geographicarum Contractarum*, Amsterdam, 1616.

This beautiful engraving depicts the city of Potosí with its legendary

“silver mountain” (discovered in 1539 and registered in 1545). Under orders from the Peruvian Viceroy, Francisco de Toledo, a mint is established in the Royal Treasury of this silver-rich, but remote mountain town, in 1574.

The history of the Mint of Potosí begins in early 1574. Under orders from the Peruvian Viceroy, Francisco de Toledo, a mint is established in the Royal Treasury of this silver-rich but remote mountain town. Potosí was founded in 1545 at the foot of the *Cerro Rico*, a mountain of silver that fed the richest mines in Spain’s New World colonies. Today the town of Potosí still perches 13,420 feet above sea level in what is now southwestern Bolivia. In its colonial heyday, it was the first city of *Alto Peru*. Coin production at Potosí began in 1574.

While at first mint assayers were simply appointed by the viceroy, this system changed on October 4, 1589. King Philip II in Spain signed a decree that allowed for the sale of the mint offices of assayer and smelter. The officials from Potosí quickly notified the new Viceroy of Peru, García Hurtado de Mendoza, 5th Marquis of Cañete, on October 15, 1590, that they were making Philip’s decree public, starting with an auction-type sale to which several individuals responded.⁽¹⁾ After the bidding ended in 1591, Juan Ballesteros Narváez, the current mint assayer, was the winner, obtaining the offices of assayer and smelter for 20,200 Pesos. The sum was to be paid in three installments: the first at the time of sale, and the two remaining in two and four years, respectively. Juan Ballesteros’ coinage can be identified by his use of the initial “B” flanking the Habsburg shield.

With the ownership of these offices at Potosí came the right to appoint lieutenants or deputies. Juan Ballesteros Narváez could appoint someone to work these posts on his behalf when he was ill or whenever he found himself absent from the town. This was

a right that Juan Ballesteros would use extensively during the time he owned these offices.

King Philip II died at daybreak on September 13, 1598, leaving the crown to his 20 year old son, Philip III.



Image courtesy of Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

Painting by artist: Juan Pantoja de la Cruz (1553-1608) King Philip III. (1578-1621) of Spain, portrait as full-length General of the Infantry (In the background: The Siege of Ostend 1601-1604). Circa 1601/1602.

By the time of Philip III's accession two deputy assayers had already served under Juan Ballesteros at Potosí. One was a former assayer of the Royal Foundry named Baltasar Ramos Leceta. Ramos Leceta used the initial "R" and a monogrammed "RL" as his identifying marks on the coins.⁽²⁾ The other deputy was Ballesteros' own brother, Hernando Ballesteros. Hernando used the same assayer initial "B" as his brother, Juan.⁽³⁾



Potosí 8 Reales coin showing on its obverse the assayer-mark R for Baltasar Ramos Leceta. *Image courtesy of Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles, Inc.*

Although there is still much we don't know about the period between 1598 and 1612, what we do know is that Hernando Ballesteros was still working as assayer in November 1603. It was probably about this time that Baltasar Ramos Leceta comes in to replace him, serving his second term as assayer.⁽⁴⁾

Baltasar Ramos Leceta continued working as the mint's assayer until his death in 1612. At this point Juan Ballesteros' ability to take up the post himself, if needed, came into question. That year King Philip III had received a substantial offer of 30,000 ducats for the post now owned by Ballesteros. Philip was actively considering revoking Ballesteros' ownership and removing him. Not convinced that Ballesteros' removal was the best option at the time, Viceroy Juan de Mendoza, 3rd Marquis of Montesclaros, wrote to the King on April 3, 1612, advising that "because he is fairly old and can be expected to vacate soon and Your Majesty will collect the part that you have coming for the sale and the offer of the new buyer may well be negotiated and accepted by Ballesteros to get out of the post free with a simulated renunciation."⁽⁵⁾

With the death of Baltasar Ramos Leceta a new assayer was needed. Selected was Agustín de la Quadra, who marks his Potosí coinage with the initial "Q". Agustín de la Quadra's tenure lasts until 1616, but he is not the only Potosí assayer working in this period. Another assayer appears who used the initial "C" to identify his work. This mark most likely belonged to Francisco Calderón. Calderón is an assayer from Potosí who in 1617 would participate in a competition for this post, as we will see.⁽⁶⁾ Although the exact time when assayer "C" worked the post has not yet been determined, it is most likely that this took place when Quadra's health was in decline at the end of his tenure. We know that Quadra died in office in 1616.



Potosí 8 Reales coin showing on its obverse the assayer-mark Q of Agustín de la Quadra. Image Courtesy of Cayón Subastas.



Potosí 2 Reales coin showing on its obverse the assayer-mark C, stamped over the Q of Agustín de la Quadra. Image Courtesy of Daniel Frank Sedwick, LLC.

On June 15, 1615 Juan Ballesteros renounced his ownership to the posts of assayer and smelter in favor of Juan Batista Fucilaserra. Less than a month later, on July 10, 1615, before the transfer could be finalized, Juan Ballesteros died. With the ownership left vacant and the transfer in limbo, on July 11, 1615, the President of the Audiencia of La Plata (also known as the Audiencia of Charcas), Don Diego de Portugal, decided to select Gaspar de Heredia as interim assayer, pending the renunciation being ratified or the Viceroy making his own selection.⁽⁷⁾

As it turned out, the renunciation was far from being ratified. On July 17, 1615, Juan Batista Fucilaserra went before the Audiencia of La Plata and requested that he be given the title without having to pay the customary deposit. He claimed that he should be exempt from such a payment because the initial purchase agreement by Ballesteros had stipulated two lifetimes, his own and that of whomever he transferred the office to.⁽⁸⁾ This petition created a further delay, which was compounded a year later by a second renunciation. Juan Batista Fucilaserra renounced in favor of Juan Ballesteros Narváez, the younger (*el mozo*), presumably a nephew of the former assayer with the same name.⁽⁹⁾ These renunciations would keep the issue in the courts for years to come.

On July 18, 1615, Don Diego's selection, Gaspar de Heredia, went before the Town Council of Potosí, where he was sworn in.⁽¹⁰⁾ A month later the Viceroy of Peru, Don Juan de Mendoza, ratified the temporary appointment of Heredia, declaring on August 20, 1615, that:

“Joan [*sic*] de Ballesteros de Narvaez, assayer of the Mint of the Imperial Town of Potosí, has died and it is necessary for the royal service of His Majesty to name another person of merit and trust in his

place who will attend to said office. Since the requisites for said office are present in you, Gaspar de Heredia, I give this document by means of which in the name of His Majesty I appoint you as assayer and smelter of the mint of the said town of Potosí”⁽¹¹⁾

On October 7, 1615, Gaspar de Heredia received the official appointment from the Viceroy and went back to the Town Council. He presented the title and was sworn in again.⁽¹²⁾ Although Gaspar de Heredia’s title gave him the right to use and exercise the office himself, he kept Agustín de la Quadra on as his working lieutenant. It is also possible that assayer “C,” during his short tenure, worked under Gaspar de Heredia. No issue of Potosí has an assayer’s mark (presumably G or H) that can be assigned to Gaspar.



Potosí 8 Reales coin minted in 1616 showing on its obverse the assayer-mark M of Juan Sánchez Mejía.

After the death of Agustín de la Quadra, Juan Sánchez Mejía appeared before the Town Council of Potosí on March 9, 1616. He presented an appointment given to him by Gaspar de Heredia and was sworn in as the mint’s new assayer on the same day.⁽¹³⁾ The discovery of this document now provides the name of a previously unknown assayer who used the letter “M” to identify his coins. After his employment at the mint, Juan Sánchez Mejía also worked at the Potosí foundry, where he was responsible for many of the silver bars discovered on the 1622 wreck of the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*.⁽¹⁴⁾

Following is a silver bar salvaged from the 1622 wreck of the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*; made at the Foundry of Potosí in 1621 and stamped with Juan Sánchez Mejía’s assayer-cartouche.

The year on the bar, appears as PI6ZI starting with the letter P for Potosí, and then using the letters I and Z for the numbers 1 and 2, respectively.

As for the assayer cartouche, this includes the name of Juan Sánchez Mejía broken down in two lines, with the upper line containing the abbreviation for Juan (Ju^o) – with J and u replaced in the cartouche with I and v, respectively, given that the letters J and u are not in the Latin alphabet and thus not standard letter-punches,—then followed, on the same line, by the standard abbreviation for Sánchez (ss^c), between two dots, and finally, on the lower line, the surname Mejía is spelled out in old Spanish as MEXIA, with the letter J replaced with an X.



PI6ZI



Io^E.
V.ss.
MEXIA

On May 10, 1617, the Viceroy of Peru, Fernando de Borja, Prince of Squillace and Count of Mayalde, drafted a new appointment for the accountant Antonio Salgado, naming him as interim holder of the offices that had been left vacant by the death of Juan Ballesteros Narváez, and were now being held by Gaspar de Heredia.⁽¹⁵⁾ For unknown reasons, Salgado was not able to travel to Potosí to present his appointment to the Town Council until 1618. In the meantime, these offices continued to be occupied by Gaspar de Heredia and those who would succeed him.

In July 1617 Gaspar de Heredia died. Following his death, on July 20, 1617, the Town-Councilor (*Corregidor*) of Potosí, Don Rafael Ortiz de Sotomayor, quickly appointed a former assayer of the foundry and resident of Potosí named Juan de Alva. This appointment was said to have been done so as not to leave these offices vacant while the Viceroy of Peru and/or the President of the Audiencia of La Plata could make their own selection.⁽¹⁶⁾ As it turned out, Juan de Alva's tenure would be short lived, for on July 28, 1617, just eight days after he had been sworn in, another would-be assayer named Don García de Paredes y Ullóa went to the Town Council of Potosí and presented a letter of appointment, dated July 20, 1617, given to him by the President of the Audiencia of La Plata, Don Diego de Portugal.⁽¹⁷⁾ Because of this document he was sworn in the next day.⁽¹⁸⁾

Dates first appear on the coins of Potosí in 1617. None of the coins known from this year show an assayer's mark that could be associated with the names of Juan de Alva or García de Paredes y Ullóa. It seems likely, therefore, that Juan Sánchez Mejía retained the post well into Don García de Paredes y Ullóa's interim ownership.



Potosí 8 Reales coin minted in 1617 showing on its obverse the assayer-mark M of Juan Sánchez Mejía. This coin is representative of the first dated coins of Potosí. Image Courtesy of Daniel Frank Sedwick LLC

Currently we do not know why Juan Sánchez Mejía was not retained further. But what we do know is that shortly after Don García de Paredes y Ullóa's tenure began, a search for a new working assayer was started. By November of 1617 two candidates had stepped forward, one being Pedro Martín de Palencia and the other Francisco Calderón de la Barra.⁽¹⁹⁾ A vote was taken on November 28. Although those who spoke in favor of Francisco Calderón emphasized that he was more capable and skilled at this art than Pedro Martín de Palencia, it was Pedro Martín de Palencia who (narrowly) received most of the votes. After being sworn in that same day, Palencia was given eight days to pay the required bond to secure his office. He was warned that he could not start exercising the post until he paid the bond, and that if he failed to do so, the office instead would go to Francisco Calderón.⁽²⁰⁾

Finding an assayer during this period with a corresponding initial "C" in his last name, in connection with Potosí, raises the question: Could the identity of the previously unknown assayer "C" who worked at the mint during the tenure of Agustín de la Quadra be Francisco Calderón? I believe the answer to that question is very likely yes. One reason is that the document where his name appears also mentions that, unlike Pedro Martín de Palencia, he had the advantage of having been previously examined in accordance with the law. This likely could have been done as part of a prior employment at the mint.⁽²¹⁾

On December 7, 1617, the mint's scribe, Antonio Corzo, informed the Town Council of Potosí that Pedro Martín de Palencia had finally completed the obligatory payment within the time required. He was allowed to start working the job on this date.⁽²²⁾ The discovery of this document is highly important as it finally provides the strong evidence needed to show that the mysterious monogram seen on coins from this period, spelling out the letters "PAL," is none other than the monogram of Pedro Martín de Palencia. This is something numismatists had previously suspected, but it was not confirmed until now.⁽²³⁾ In addition, the confirmation of Pedro Martín de Palencia's employment at the mint in 1617 now helps to shed more light on some

extremely rare coins with his monogram and a date of 1617. These would represent a mintage struck between December 7 and 31 of 1617.⁽²⁴⁾



Above: two Potosí coins showing on their obverse the monogrammed PAL assayer-marks of Pedro Martín de Palencia.

Upper coin: 4 Reales with the monogrammed PAL assayer-mark composed of the letter P connected by the letter A, and then, with the foot of the L extending from the right leg of the letter A. 8 Reales author's coin

Lower coin: 2 Reales coin below also showing the monogrammed PAL assayer-mark, this time composed of the letter P with the foot of the L extending from the lower leg of the P, and then, making the A by connecting the right leg of the A to the upper portion of the P, where, due to its position, it ends up, in its lower portion, going through the right extension of the foot of the L. (It seems that due to the less evident nature of this other assayer-mark, it was only used on some 2 Reales coins). 2 Reales courtesy of Carol Tedesco

By mid-1618 Antonio Salgado was finally able to appear before the Town Council of Potosí. He presented on July 27 the appointment that had been given to him by the Viceroy of Peru in 1617.⁽²⁵⁾ Formally received and sworn in on that same day, Salgado immediately selected as his lieutenant Juan Jiménez de Tapia. Jiménez de Tapia already had received a letter of appointment from the Viceroy on October 17, 1617, but had not yet exercised the post.⁽²⁶⁾ On August 17, 1618, Juan Jiménez de Tapia took the oath of office required to begin his work, marking the end of Pedro Martín de Palencia's tenure.⁽²⁷⁾ Jiménez de Tapia would use the letter "T" as his assayer's mark.

On November 20, 1618, the process that had begun in 1615 for the transfer of the offices of assayer and smelter in favor of Juan Batista Fucilaserra, and then modified in 1616 to reflect the new transfer from Juan Batista Fucilaserra to Juan Ballesteros Narváez, the younger, was finally concluded when Viceroy Don Francisco de Borja ruled in favor of Juan Ballesteros Narváez.⁽²⁸⁾



Above: two transitional Potosí coins minted in 1618 showing on their obverse the assayer-mark T of Juan Jiménez de Tapia, struck over or next to the monogrammed assayer-mark PAL of Pedro Martín de Palencia.

Upper coin: 8 Reales with the assayer-mark T struck over the monogrammed assayer-mark PAL. *Author's coin*

Lower coin: 2 Reales coin showing on its obverse the monogrammed assayer-mark PAL to the left of the shield, and then, to the right, the new assayer-mark T stamped over the denomination (on this coin the letter Z was used for the number 2 to represent the denomination). *Courtesy of Daniel Frank Sedwick, LLC*

As part of the ruling, Juan Ballesteros Narváez was given 15 days to pay the sum of 33,333 Pesos, two Reales and 11 Maravedis. That sum combined one-third of what was still owed from the initial transfer and one-half of what was now owed, all based on the appraised total value of 40,000 Pesos.⁽²⁹⁾ Ballesteros protested that this amount was excessive, especially since he had been deprived of the rents while the matter was in the courts. This situation, he stated, had brought him “much poverty”. As a possible resolution, Ballesteros requested that he be allowed to pay one-third of this value over a two year period, and the remaining two-thirds over an additional four years.

On January 5, 1619, in response to Ballesteros’ request, the viceroy approved a payment plan. The viceroy’s plan, however, offered a less favorable breakdown of the amounts to be paid and a more demanding schedule than Ballesteros had requested. The new agreement stipulated that Ballesteros had to pay between the end of February and the end of June 1619 half the amount owed and then the other half by the end of February 1621.⁽³⁰⁾

In June of 1619, Juan de Lorenzana, on behalf of the principal title holder and his brother-in-law, Juan Ballesteros Narváez, and Ballesteros’ father and alternate,

Captain Bartolomé Gaitán de Espinosa, paid the required initial amount of 16,666 Pesos and 5 ½ Reales. He deposited this in the Treasury in four separate payments as follows:⁽³¹⁾

5,000 Pesos on June 22, 1619
7,250 Pesos on June 22, 1619
3,000 Pesos on June 22, 1619
1,416 Pesos and 5 ½ Reales on June 26, 1619.

With the completion of these payments within the specified time, Juan Ballesteros went to the mint on June 26, 1619 and participated in the customary ceremonial acts of ownership.⁽³²⁾ He was sworn in by the Town Council on July 2, 1619,⁽³³⁾ and the same day he drafted a letter appointing Juan de Lorenzana as his administrative representative.⁽³⁴⁾

On August 22, 1619, Juan de Lorenzana presented his letter to the mint.⁽³⁵⁾ Finding Juan Jiménez de Tapia still executing the post of assayer competently, Juan de Lorenzana decided to reconfirm his previous appointment by providing him with a new contract that included an extension for four continuous years.⁽³⁶⁾ Tapia was sworn in again on October 30, 1619.⁽³⁷⁾

We know that Juan Jiménez de Tapia, who was sworn in yet again on October 2, 1620,⁽³⁸⁾ was still working as the assayer of the Potosí Mint at the time of King Philip III's death on March 31, 1621. He continued working this post until sometime in 1622, when he was replaced by an assayer who used the initial "P" to identify his work. This is now believed to be Pedro Martín de Palencia, the same assayer that had previously worked the post but who was now using a new assayer-mark. Juan Jiménez de Tapia returned to his post sometime in 1623, where he seems to have remained until sometime in 1624, when he was again replaced by Pedro Martín de Palencia.⁽³⁹⁾

TABLE 1			
Potosí Mint—Working Assayers (1598-1621)			
From	To	Name	Assayer-Mark
1596	1603(?)	Hernando Ballesteros/ Juan Ballesteros Narváez	B
1603(?)	1612	Baltasar Ramos Leceta	R, RL
1612	1616	Agustín de la Quadra	Q
1616(?)	1616(?)	Francisco Calderón (?)	C*
1616	1617	Juan Sánchez Mejía	M
1617	1618	Pedro Martín de Palencia	PAL
1618	1622	Juan Jiménez de Tapia	T

*Although this assayer mark has been reported on 8 and 2 Reales coins, only the 2 Reales coins show this mark clearly enough to confirm its existence.



TABLE 2		
Owners/Interim Owners of the Post of Assayer at the Potosí Mint (1598-1621)		
From	To	Name
1591	1615	Juan Ballesteros Narváez
*		
1615	1617	Gaspar de Heredia
1617	1617	Juan de Alva
1617	1618	García de Paredes y Ullóa
1618	1619	Antonio Salgado
1619	1626(?)	Juan Ballesteros Narváez, the younger (<i>el mozo</i>)

*Although **Juan Batista Fucilaserra** (1615-1616) is omitted from the list above, he could be included. The renunciation made to him by Juan Ballesteros Narváez in 1615 was theoretically eventually accepted, which is one of the reasons why, before Juan Ballesteros Narváez, the younger, could be confirmed, he was asked to pay the one-third that should have been paid by his predecessor, Juan Batista Fucilaserra.

Endnotes:

- (1) K. A. Dym, "Los primeros ensayadores de Potosí," *NVMISMATICA* – Publicación oficial de la Sociedad Numismática del Perú, No. 39 (Lima, Peru, January/April 1990), p. 15, endnote 10.
- (2) American Numismatic Society, Proceeding No. 5, Coinage of the Americas Conference (COAC), Editor W. L. Bischoff, *The Coinage of El Perú* (New York, NY, 1988), p. 68. From the section titled "Documentary Evidence Regarding the La Plata Mint and the First Issues of Potosí", by Arnaldo J. Cunietti-Ferrando.
- (3) Archivo y Biblioteca Nacional de Bolivia (ABNB), Cabildo de Potosí, Libros de Acuerdo (CPLA), No. 8, F. 22R: Agreement with Hernando Ballesteros dated October 23, 1596.
- (4) A. J. Cunietti-Ferrando, *Historia de la Real Casa de Moneda de Potosí durante la dominación hispánica 1573 - 1652* (Buenos Aires, 1995), p. 99.
- (5) American Numismatic Society, (Op. cit., n. 1), p. 69.
- (6) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 191V-192R.
- (7) ABNB, CPLA, No. 14, F. 118V-119R.
- (8) ABNB, CPLA No. 16. F. 135V.
- (9) ABNB (ibid, n. 6); ABNB, CPLA No. 16, F. 237V. Although this other Juan Ballesteros Narvaéz has been previously described as being the son of the former assayer with the same name, this is not correct. In fact, we do know from the documents that his legitimate father was Captain Bartolomé Gaitán de Espinosa.

A. J. Santos Márquez, *Los Ballesteros. Una Familia de Plateros en la Sevilla del Quinientos* (Seville, Spain, 2007), pp. 37 and 41. According to a genealogical tree of the Ballesteros family, Bartolomé Gaitán de Espinosa (who was also a silversmith), married María de Narváez, the older sister of the assayer from Potosí named Juan Ballesteros Narvaéz, in 1544. If the the younger Juan Ballesteros Narvaéz is the son of this marriage, that would make him the nephew of the older one. But more documentary evidence might be needed to conclusively establish this

relationship as the younger Juan Ballesteros was said to have been between the ages of 20 and 25 in 1619, which raises the question of whether María could have been his mother or not. Although we do not know the date of birth of María de Narvaéz, we can estimate from the date of her marriage that she would have been some 60 years old around 1595, when the birth of the younger Juan Ballesteros should have taken place. What might be more probable is that María might have died before 1595, for which Bartolomé Gaitán de Espinosa could have remarried another member of the Ballesteros family. If this turns out to be true, then the younger Juan Ballesteros Narvaéz would still have been a nephew of his older relative.

- (10) ABNB (Op. cit., n. 5).
- (11) American Numismatic Society, (Op. cit., n. 1).
- (12) ABNB, CPLA, No. 14, F. 142R.
- (13) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15: F. 1R-1V.
- (14) J. A. Proctor, *Plvs Vltra Newsletter*, "The Mystery of the Assayer Cartouche from the Wreck of the Atocha – Solved!," (West Palm Beach, FL, 2010), Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 4-6.
- (15) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 39V-41R.
- (16) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15: F. 150R-151R.
- (17) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 151R-152R.
- (18) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 152V-153R.
- (19) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 191V-192R.
- (20) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 192R.
- (21) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 191V.
- (22) ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 197V.
- (23) D. Sedwick and F. Sedwick, *The Practical Book of Cobs*. 4th Edition, (Winter Park, FL, 2007), pp. 99-100.
- (24) D. Sedwick and F. Sedwick, (Op. cit., n. 21), p. 100.
- (25) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 42R.
- (26) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 48R and F. 239R.
- (27) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 47V-49R.
- (28) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16: F. 136V-137R.
- (29) ABNB (op. cit., n. 26).
- (30) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16: F. 137R-137V.
- (31) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16: F. 138R-138V.
- (32) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16: F. 138V-140R.
- (33) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16: F. 132R and F. 140R-141V.
- (34) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 236V-238R.
- (35) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 236V-237R.
- (36) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 238R-249R.
- (37) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 239R-240R.
- (38) ABNB, CPLA, No. 16, F. 234R-234V.
- (39) D. Sedwick and F. Sedwick, (Op. cit., n. 21), p. 101.

Oath given to Juan Sánchez Mejía, assayer of the Mint of Potosí, under appointment by Gaspar de Heredia, interim owner to the office of assayer and smelter of the mint. (9 March 1616)

9/3 En La Villa ymperial de potossi a nuebe dias del mes de março de mill
1616 y seiscientos y diez y seis años El cabildo Justicia y Regimiento desta billa
estando En su sala de ayuntamiento como Lo an de Uso y CostunBre Por el
para tratar y Conferir Las cosas tocantes y Conbinientes al Pro huti-
Lidad de la Republica conbiene saber El señor Don Raphael ortiz de
sotomayor Cavallero del horden de San Joan coRegidor y Justicia mayor desta billa
Lasaro de hernani y Joan de Paredes herera alcaldes hordinarios
El fator bartolome astete de ulloa El qontador hermano de loma puerto-
carero andres cornejo de Cantoral diego dalviz velazquez alferez y los veinte
quattros Juoan brizeño pedro de verasategui francisco de burgos manuel de camudio
Joan gutierrez de paredes don pedro de mesa antonio de rueda pedro
de Urquiço ffelipe de godoy don diego. de luno don luis
de rribera antonio de berasategui pedro balles-
teros xpoval . de Velasco. e todos juntos trataron y Con-
firieron lo siguiente. _____

xx

En este Cabildo Presento Joan Sanchez Mexia ensayador examina-
do nombramiento de ensayador de la Casa de la moneda de la villa fecho
en El por gasPar de heredia ensayador y fundidor de la dicha casa por ti-
tulo del señor ViRei y pidio y suplico al cavildo que En Conformidad de
Las leyes y ordenanças Reales de la Casa de la moneda le mande
Recibir El Juramento que tiene obligación de haçer para El uso del dicho
oficio v El cabildo Le mando entrar En El v que haga El Juramento



y en quanto a las fianças que debe dar Conforme a las ordenan-
cas de la Casa las de a satisfación y Riesgo de ese servicio de ella que estu-
Vo Presente y abiendo entrado En El Cabildo el dicho joan sanchez me-
xia fuedes Recebido Juaramento Por dios nuestro señor y Por la señal
De la Cruz En forma devida de derecho de que usara El dicho oficio de ensa-
yador de la casa de la moneda bien y fielmente a todo su Poder y que
guardara las leyes y ordenanças de ellas en todo lo que le tocan Y que
no hara ni Consentira fraude dolo falsedad ni otro delito
y que si tubierenos que otros oficiales lo intentan hacer dara quenta
de ello al cabildo y al tesorero de la cassa para que lo Remedie
Y a la qonclusion del Juaramento dijo si Juro y amen con lo qual Le
mandaron dar testimonio Para que ocurra a dar las fianças
ante el tesorero de la dicha casa y usar El dicho oficio

Agreement and oath given to Juan de Alba, resident of the town of Potosí, for the interim ownership to the offices of assayer and smelter of the mint, due to the death of Gaspar de Heredia. (20 July 1617)

cabildo	En la villa de potossi jueves Veinte días del mes de jullio de mil y seiscientos y diez y siete años el cabildo justicia y rregimiento desta villa se juntaron para rrezibir a joan de alva por ensayador. y fundidor. de la cassa de la moneda desta villa conviene a saver don raffael Ortiz de sotomayor cavallero de la orden de san joan corregidor e justicia mayor y sancho de madariaga
---------	--

de ornaegui juez oficial rreal y pedro de ba
llesteros veinte quatro y fiel executor
y estando todos juntos. se trato lo siguiente
~ en este cabildo . parecio joan de alva . vezino
desta villa . y presento un nombramiento
del señor corregidor en que le nombra. por fundidor
y ensayadorde la cassa de la moneda . desta villa
por ffin. y muerte. de gaspar de heredia
que lo ffue .y pidio ser reszibido al usso
y exercicio del. el qual dicho nombramiento
es del tenor siguiente _____

~ en La audiencia. ymperial de potossi en veinte dias del mes
de Jullio de mil y seisçientos y diez y siete años
don raffael ortiz de sotomayor cavallero de la orden
de san joan corregidor y justicia mayor desta villa y provincia
por su magestad dixo que por quanto gaspar de heredia
fundidor y ensayador mayor desta ciudad es muerto y paso
desta presente vida y para que aya persona que
usse el dicho cargo entre tanto quel Exelentisimo señor príncipe
desquilache birrey destos rreynos y El señor don diego de por-
tugal presidente de la rreal audiencia. de la plata provea
en persona que lo usse por la presente teniendo entera
satisfaçion de joan de alva. vezino desta villa maestro exsa-
minado y de muchas experiencias en el dicho officio el nom-
brava e nombro por ffundidor y ensayador mayor
desta villa en lugar. del dicho gaspar de heredia
el qual se presente con este nombramiento ante el cabildo justicia
regimiento de esta villa e hágale juramento y solenidad necessaria

para que sea rreszibido. al usso del dicho oficio y con esto
mando que en la cassa de la moneda. todos los oficiales della
se ayan y tengan por tal y con el usen el dicho oficio segun
y como se ussava. con el dicho gaspar de heredia
y le guarden al dicho Joan de alva . las pre-
minencias. que por rrazon del dicho oficio
se le deseen guardar. y asi lo proveyó con que dentro
de tercero dia desas fianças acostumbradas y lo
firmo. don raffael ortiz de sottomayor ante mi Joan
altamirano escrivano publico y del cabildo _____

~ y Por El dicho cabildo visto El dicho nombramiento man-
daron que se guarde y Cumpla y en su cumpli-
miento . rreszibieron. al dicho Joan de
alva .por ffundidor. y ensayador. de la casa
de la moneda. desta villa . en lugar del dicho
gaspar de heredia que ya es difunto y se man-
daron que dentro del tercero dia de las fianças
acostumbradas para El usso del dicho oficio como
se le manda por el dicho nombramiento. y Con esto
se tomo y rreszibio ^{del} Juramento por dios nuestro señor
y una señal de cruz que hizo con los dedos de su
mano derecha. que usara bien y fielmente del dicho
cargo a su leal saver. y entender .y si asi lo hiziere
dios le ayude y al contrario se lo demande y dixo si juro y a-
men y asi quedo rreszibido el dicho Joan de alva
y Con este se cerro y firmo en este cabildo

Selection and oath of Pedro Martín de Palencia, as assayer of the Mint of Potosí. (28 November 1617)

cabildo de 28 de
noviembre ____

En La villa imperial de potosí a veinte
y ocho dias del mes de noviembre de mill y seisçientos
y diez y siete años el cavildo justia y rreçimiento desta
villa se juntaron a cavildo en las cassas de
su ayuntamiento como lo an de uso y costun-
bre es a saver el governador don francisco sarmiento
de sotomayor = sancho de madrigal agustin francisco -
francisco de burgos . rrodrigo de Vuesso/ juan
brizeño // pedro de berasategui lorengo de vera
antonio de rrueda = pedro garcia de
Vega/ don juan barahona y loayza
xptoval de ugarte y todos juntos
trataron Y confirieron lo siguiente _____
abiendose tratado Y conferido en este cabildo es El rreçebimiento
de Pedro martin de Palencia para ensayador de la cassa d la mone-
da desta villa con bista de sus pedimientos titulo y examen
y de los de francisco calderon que ansi mismo presente
ser rreçebido a el usso y exercicio del dicho / officio
~~El señor alcaide ssancho de madaraga~~ se rreducio a botos
y los señores alcaldes sancho de madariaga y agustin francisco
alguacil mayor y francisco de burgos y pedro de verasategui
y xptobal de ugarte y don juan baraona de loayssa
dixeron que se boto y parecer es sea rreçebido el
dicho pedro martin de palencia a el usso y exercicio del
dicho officio de tal ensayador de la cassa de la mo-
neda desta villa dando las fianças y aciando el ju-

ramento entre caso de derecho nesessario y que se acostumbra y los señores rrodrigo de buesso y juan briceno antonio de rrueda y pedro garcia de la vega y Lorencó de vera dixerón que su boto y pareceres sea rrecebido a el usso y exercisio del dicho oficio francisco calderon por ser mas abil y perito en el dicho arte que el dicho pedro martin y ser examinado conforme a derecho y contradisen al rrecibimiento de del dicho pedro martin por no ser examinado sabe ni suficiente para el uso y exercicio dicho officio y de lo contrario piden testimonio y visto Por el dicho señor corregidor rregulando los dichos botos y que la mayor parte de este cabildo abiendo pues dicho pedro martin de palencia sea rrecebido como pretende y que jure luego en este cabildo y desde luego que de rrecebido con que dentro de ocho dias de las fianças que tiene obligación a satisfacion de a con que asta que lo aga no use del dicho officio y so pena que ssi no las diere dentro de dicho termino ~~queda desde luego exeluido del uso y exercisio del dicho officio en su lugar se rrecurrá al dicho ffranciseo calderón de la barra~~

Y con esto se cerro El dicho cabildo y acavo en la forma dicha y lo ffirmaron = todo/ el señor alcalde ssancho de madariagal / e yncontinente en execucion del dicho decreto mandaron que entre a jurar el dicho pedro martin el qual abiendo entrado en este cabildo en presencia de el juro por dios nuestro señor e por santa maria su madre por las palabras de los sanctos quatro evangelios y por una señal de cruz que hizo con su mano derecha bien y cumplidamente so cargo del qual prometio de ussar bien y fielmente dicho officio de tal ensayador de la dicha cassa de la moneda y en el usso de el guardara las leyes destos rreynos y ordenancas de la dicha cassa de la moneda y en todo ara lo que de hecho es obligado como lo hiciere le ayude dios y si no se lo de demande y a la conclusion del dicho juramento dixo si juro y amen

~:

y Con esto se acabo este cabildo y lo firmaron
batido queda desde luego/ escluido del usso y exercisio del dicho officio y en su lugar sse rre-
curra al dicho francisco calderon de la varra

ABNB, CPLA, No. 15: F. 191V-192R

Proof of the payment made required by Pedro Martín de Palencia for the performance of the duties of assayer at the Mint of Potosí. (7 December 1617)

Cabildo de 7 de
diciembre

en la villade potosy en siete dias del mes de
Diziembre demill y seiscientos y diez y siete años El cabildo
Justicia y Regimiento desta villa se juntaron a cabildo Para tratar
de las cosas del bien de la republica – convie-
ne a saver el governador don francisco sarmiento de
sotomayor corregidor y justicia mayor de la ciudad
de la plata . y desta villa . e juez de
residencia. y domingo de Verasategui
alcalde ordinario. y el secretario agustin francisco arias alguazil mayor
y el veinte quatro xpoval de ugarite y todos juntos trataron
y confrieron lo siguiente .

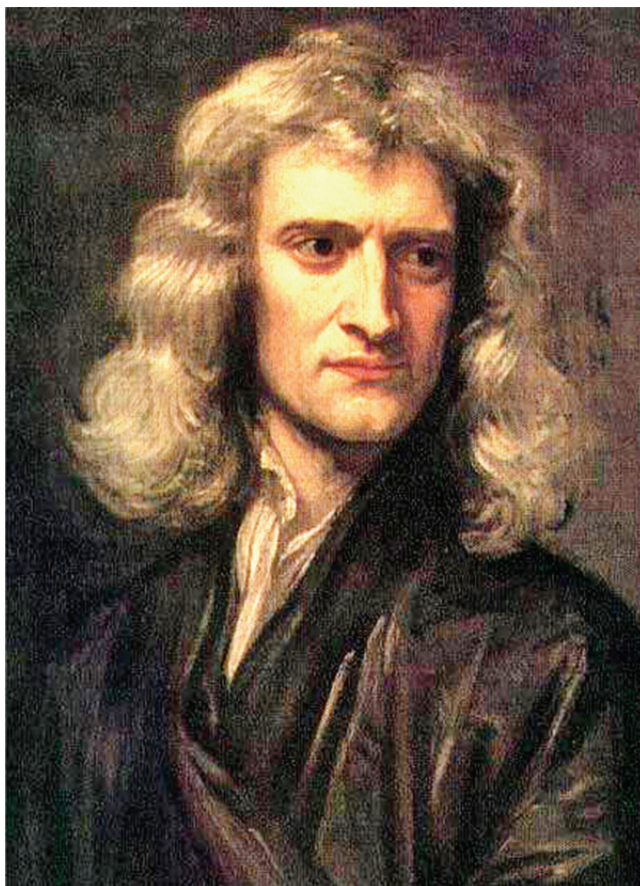
xx

en este cabildo Presento pedro martin de palencia fee de an-
tonio corço escrivano de la cassa de la moneda por don-
de consta el sussodicho a dado las fianças que se le
mandaron dar en este cabildo para el buen uso

y ejercicio del oficio de ensayador de la dicha cassa y que
Las dio dentro del termino que se le mando declara se aber
cunplido con lo acordado por este cavildo -
y con esto se aCabo este Cabildo y lo firmaron

ABNB, CPLA, No. 15, F. 197V

Quiz



Infinitesimal calculus

Binomial series

Law of universal gravitation

Classical mechanics

Reflecting telescope

Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy
in original Latin "*Philosophiæ Naturalis*
Principia Mathematica"

I also wrote one of the articles in this edition of
the NI bulletin. Who am I?

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NI

A Coin of the Rebellious City Government of Aachen

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

Aachen (in French, *Aix-la-Chapelle*), on the western edge of modern Germany close to the Belgian and Dutch borders, has a special place in German and European history. Charlemagne, the emperor who united much of what is now France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Northern Italy, was probably born there and made the city his capital. In 843 Charlemagne's grandsons divided up the Empire. Louis the German's territory was in modern Germany.

In 936, one of his successors, Otto I, was crowned king of the German kingdom in the collegiate church built by Charlemagne. Over the next 500 years, most kings of Germany destined to reign over the Holy Roman Empire were crowned in Aachen, the last being Ferdinand I in 1531.

An imperial mint was established in Aachen in 1166. In the early 14th century the town was made a free city of the Empire and it started to strike city coinage soon after.

A typical coin of the mid-16th century is shown here. It is a 1/8 Taler of 1572 and it emphasizes Aachen's imperial connections. Here is a detailed description:



Obv.: MO.REGIAE SEDIS_VRBIS AQVISGRANI (money of the royal seat of the city of Aachen) Crowned half figure of Charlemagne holding scepter, cathedral at left, below shield with city arms (eagle) dividing 72, breaking out of circle. Rev.: MAXIMIL.II.ROMAN CAESAR.AVG (Maximilian II, august Roman Emperor) Crowned imperial double eagle. Diameter 28 mm, 4.33 g. References: Krumbach 108.72.1. Menadier 148v. KM.MB.15.

This coin was struck in a period when the Reform movement launched by Martin Luther was attracting more and more adherents in Aachen. There were growing disputes with the Catholic establishment controlling the city council. Protestant ideas were first preached in Aachen in 1524 by Albrecht von Münster. He was soon forbidden to preach and finally executed on two counts of murder. In 1560 the city council issued an order forbidding Protestants from holding office. Nevertheless, the Protestant population continued to grow, swelled by an influx from the neighboring Netherlands in rebellion against the Spanish Habsburgs, and in 1574 they again were

able to win seats on the city council. By 1576 they had a majority on the council and they started to set up places of worship for Protestants. Nevertheless, control of the Council swung back and forth between Protestants and Catholics, the latter supported by the Emperor and Duke Wilhelm V of neighboring Jülich. In 1581 there were riots in which the Protestants seized the city treasury and some Catholics were killed. With tensions rising before May 1581 elections, many Catholics, including Council members, fled to Jülich. The Catholics appealed to the Emperor, who decreed that the councilors had to confess Catholic doctrine and Protestant councilors should be removed. Some loyal Spanish troops were sent to put pressure on Aachen. The Protestants sent a delegate, Bonifacius Colyn, the son of a former mayor and a moderate Catholic tolerant of Protestants, to negotiate with the Emperor. A compromise tolerating freedom of religion as permitted under the Peace of Augsburg was reached and the troops were withdrawn after six months. Nevertheless, the Evangelical government remained in control. The imperial commissar came to Aachen and demanded that the 1560 decree be enforced. This ended in an armed confrontation, with the Protestants having the upper hand. The imperial commissar and his Catholic supporters had to leave the city in 1581 and an Evangelical government took complete control.

Although this was a local event, the implications for the Emperor were serious. Aachen now offered the rebels in the Netherlands a sanctuary in Germany and it set a precedent for other imperial cities with large Protestant populations like Cologne and towns in Alsace to oust the Catholics from government. Rudolf II decided that Aachen should no longer be invited to participate in the *Reichstag*, the Imperial Diet. Its sister cities unanimously protested against this attempt to strip an imperial city of its imperial status. They seconded the Aachen representatives into their own delegations with a seat and vote and made the acceptance of the tax contribution requested by the Emperor dependent on hearing their grievances.

Following the exclusion of Aachen from the Reichstag, the *Münzstände* (the local rulers and cities within the Holy Roman Empire holding the right to mint coins) excluded Aachen. The city had chosen Johann Barkhoven and Johan Bennonius to represent them at the *Kreisprobationstag*, the Circle Test Day, when coins within a Circle (the Empire was divided into Kreise or Circles) were tested for their value and conformity with the provisions of the Coinage Law, in Cologne. Not only were the Aachen representatives excluded but two cofferers of their coins were confiscated.

Excluded from the Imperial diet and in financial difficulty, the Aachen Council decided they were no longer bound by the Imperial monetary standards and started to issue lower quality *Scheidemünze* (small coins for local use), a precursor of the Kipper and Wipper period forty years later. In 1585 the Council also changed the wording in the legend of their coins to include LIBERAE (free).

These changes are illustrated in the next coin shown, a 6 or 8 Heller of 1586:



Obv.: + MO.RE.SE.LIB.IM.VR.AQV (money of the royal seat of the free Imperial city of Aachen) Shield with city arms (eagle l.) dividing 86 (date), in circle. Rev.: RVDOL.II.RO.IM.SE.AVG (Rudolf II, ever august Roman Emperor) Crowned imperial double eagle with orb on breast, in circle. Diameter 18 mm, 0.91 g. References: Krumb.120.86.4. Menadier 165a var. KM.MB.24. Saurma 2824.

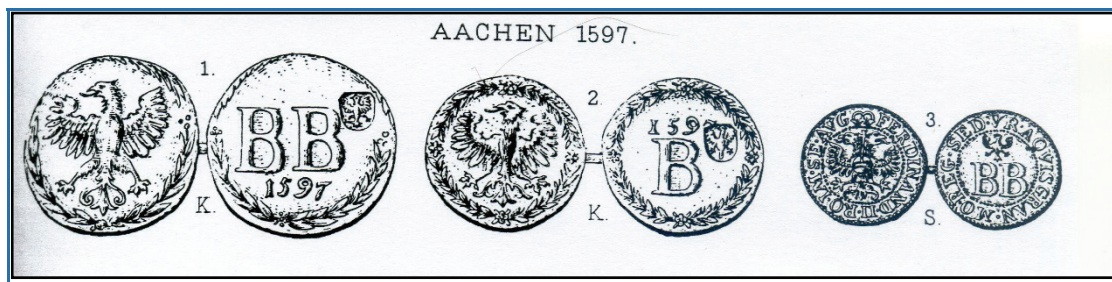
There is no indication of value on the coin. Menadier calls this coin a 6 Heller piece, based on its weight and silver content. Saurma and Krause follow him in denominating the coin 6 Heller. However, Krumbach believes it traded as 8 Heller and says the coins were called *Fettmännchen*, because of their greasy shine (*fettig* is German for greasy).

Not only does the obverse legend emphasize that Aachen is a FREE Imperial city but the figure of Charlemagne no longer appears, just the city arms.

The LIB addition first appeared on a gold Gulden of 1582. The gold Gulden struck up to 1592, the Talers and Double Talers from 1585 to 1596 and the Half Taler struck in 1585 all include LIB in the legend but still feature Charlemagne on the obverse.

The dispute between Aachen and the Emperor dragged on for nearly twenty years, with continuing tensions and occasional violence between Catholics and Protestants in the city. The Emperor disliked the religious change in “his imperial city”. In 1591 he put an imperial ban on the city, which made it an outlaw city which in theory any other state could legally attack. Finally, in 1597 the Emperor sent an army of Spanish and Jülich troops to take the town, which they did after a short siege. The Imperial ban was removed on 30 June 1598.

This siege produced some very rare siege copper coins or tokens dated 1597, featuring one or two large “B”. The drawings are from Brause-Mansfeld, who lists them as necessity coinage without further information. Menadier thinks they were 1 and 2 Bauschen pieces (Men.169 and 168). However, Krumbach points out that 1 Bauschen was worth 4 Heller and that these coins are far too large, almost Taler size, for such a denomination. He believes the coins are bread tokens (Krum.221.1 and 221.2) issued when the besieged city faced food shortages. “B” would be 1 piece of bread, “BB” two.



After the Emperor regained control, the Evangelical Council was forced to resign and replaced by an all-Catholic Council, Protestants were excluded from all civic offices and their places of worship and schools were closed. Many leading Protestants were expelled and the new council demanded that 126 ‘outlaws’ paid substantial fines. Many Catholic refugees returned.

The coinage also returned to the old style. Aachen only started striking coinage again in 1615, under Emperor Matthias. The obverse of all the coins featured Charlemagne and variations of the legend MO.REGIAE SEDIS_VRBIS AQVISGRANI (money of the royal seat of the city of Aachen)—with no LIB. (free).

Of course, the victory of the Catholics did not end religious conflict. Another Protestant uprising in 1611 drove out the Catholic officials again. There were negotiations for a compromise agreement but in August 1614 the city was again put under Imperial ban. A Spanish army of 16,000 was sent to take the city and the Protestant Council had to admit defeat without a shot being fired. Two Protestant leaders were put to death and 77 families were sent into exile. However, during this period the Protestant Council did not strike any coinage so there is no numismatic history of this second episode.

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NI

A Gold Medal struck for Regent Ras Tafari

Dennis Gill, NI #1546

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Last year I acquired an extremely rare, heretofore unknown Ethiopian medal. Struck in gold, it was made to commemorate the elevation of Ras Tafari (later Haile Selassie) to Regent. A gold medal of this design was previously known to exist only in a smaller size, 32mm in diameter, weight unknown. It is recorded and pictured in my book *The Coinage of Ethiopia* as number RT11.

The current example measures 41mm in diameter and weighs a hefty 50.25 grams. The obverse portrays the facing bust of Ras Tafari wearing an ornate ducal coronet and regal robe with the date, 1917, in Amharic in the field to the right. The reverse depicts an angel above bearing the imperial crown and flying down to place it on the head of the symbolic Lion of Judah seated between two pillars. Surrounding is the legend in Amharic script “Heir to the Kingdom of Ethiopia, Tafari Makonnen”.



Designed in Paris by French medalist and engraver Marcel Paul Dammann, a student of J.C. Chaplain, his name “M. Dammann” can be seen in faint, small letters just below the right pillar. The medal has a plain edge and both sides display an attractive fret pattern on the borders. Struck at the Paris Mint.

The area below the Lion of Judah (the exergue) appears to have been planed with a tool after the medal was struck. I believe that this was done at the Mint before being released as identical planing down is visible on the same design medal existing in both sizes. Because the area has been so totally smoothed down, it is impossible to detect if some lettering may have been eliminated. This seems likely, but we can only speculate about what that lettering may have been.

At this time, Empress Zauditu, the daughter of Menelik II, was on the throne. An old Ras, Wolde Giorgis, was appointed Negus (or King) and Ras Tafari was named Prince Regent and successor to the throne. A struggle for political power ensued, primarily between Empress Zauditu and Ras Tafari, with Tafari gradually gaining the upper hand and limiting the power of the Empress.



I believe that at the time the medals were designed and struck at Paris, they may have included a title in the exergue that was later determined to be inappropriate for this medal such as “The Great King” or some other similar appellation. This inscription may have been eliminated either at the Paris Mint or afterward when the medals reached Addis Ababa. This possible inaccuracy may also account for the extreme rarity of this medal. Your writer has only recorded one example each of the two sizes of this beautifully designed and historic numismatic treasure.

NI

Membership Report

The following person(s) have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by July-1-2014 the memberships are effective that day.

NI #2764 Kulturhistorisk Museum
Universitets I Oslo NumisMatisk Bibl
Postboks 6762 St Olavs Plass
Oslo, 0130 Norway

The following Member(s) are deceased. NI Membership extends our deepest sympathy to their families.

NI #1285 Wilhelm R. Eglseer
NI #2381 Francis B. Besseney

NI

Nigeria 2006 - Seven Years Waiting
Paul Baker, NI #2615



Obverse: FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA around central design the Arms of Nigeria with 2006 date below. Reverse: 50 kobo with image of maize.



Obverse: FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA / CBN around outer ring. Central design the Arms of Nigeria with 2006 date below. Reverse: ONE NAIRA HERBERT MACAULAY around outer ring. Central design bust over large numeral 1 with dates 1864 left and 1946 right.



Obverse: FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA / CBN around outer ring. Central design the Arms of Nigeria with 2006 date below. Reverse: ★ TWO NAIRA ★ around outer ring. Central design larger numeral 2 superimposed over national assembly building with NATIONAL ASSEMBLY above.

If ever there was a set of coins that took a long time to actually come into being, it was the Nigeria 2006 dated set. First issued to circulation on 28-Feb-2007, this set comprised 50 Kobo, 1 Naira and 2 Naira. Looking back at my e-mails from the time, it would seem that I waited just over seven years for this set to really happen. In January 2000, a question from China received via Worldwide Bi-Metallic Collectors Club (WBCC) contacts...

“Have you heard about new bi-metallic from Nigeria, my friend told me there is new bi-metallic coin issued in Nigeria but I can't confirm this message?”

I have no idea of the source of this “news”, though the most recent date on Nigerian coins at this time was 1993 (50 Kobo and 1 Naira) and so it was quite plausible that new coins could be under consideration. There was very little further information until someone told me in December 2001...

“Nigeria: Coins to replace low value naira notes. The Central Bank of Nigeria will issue 5, 10 and 20 naira coins to replace paper notes next year. This measure seems to be very unpopular.”

Likely this had originated in some official announcement from Nigeria which was likely the source of Richard Geidroyc's January 2002 “World Coin News” mention of new coins being expected for Nigeria. But over subsequent months—nothing happened. Later on in December 2002 someone must have heard a rumour, they informed me that new Nigeria 50 Kobo, 1 Naira and 5 Naira were issued and asked that if I saw any then could I get them some pieces too. Evidently a year went by and nothing happened—no new coins. In December 2003 I read a new news report at www.news24.com; the first main line of the report read...

“Lagos - Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has halted the sale of the state mint amid disagreements between the agencies handling the transaction, his office said on Tuesday.”

Around this time, over a period of a few years, I came across a number of reports on the latest happenings regarding the sale or otherwise of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company. It seems possible that this had something to do with the great delay with the coins. Next, in January 2005, I read a very recent report with this quote from the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria...

“Higher currency denominations will be introduced to ease transactions and appropriate mix of coins and bank notes will be introduced.”

Well I had read the same sort of thing before and nothing had happened—I kept in hope—but, as I had guessed, again nothing happened. More than a year later, in April 2006, something similar, no surprise, I read a new news report at www.tribune.com.ng and the first main line of this read...

“CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria (CBN) said on Tuesday in Lagos that it would release a new set of coins in 50 kobo, one naira and two naira denominations in December.”

Well this time maybe they really meant it! Then, after more waiting, though less than a year, along came a real development. On 17-Nov-2006 via WBCC contacts I received a message with real coin images of the 2006 dated 1 Naira and the 2006 dated 2 Naira. Both of these new coins were bi-metallic. That week the two images were shown in WBCC Newsmail 536. A few weeks later I had heard that the coins would be officially released in February 2007, but elsewhere I read that a release date was still to be set. Soon after this, at the start of January 2007, a collector mentioned to me...

“Did you see the 1 & 2 Naira (bimetal) and 50 Kobo (old type) 2006 from Nigeria?”

This tied in with the three denominations mentioned at December 2002 and April 2006. Also around this time I read a 17-Dec-2006 dated report that cleared up the uncertainty regarding the issue date. The report at www.tribune.com.ng included...

“The new notes and coins to be introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), will be launched officially on February 28, 2007, the Nigerian Tribune has learnt.”

That announcement and then a collector telling me on 5-Jan-2007 that he had one of each of the three new types was, of course, enough to convince me. About the coins he had acquired, the collector told me that the 50 Kobo was like the previous type of that denomination, only smaller and that the 1 Naira and 2 Naira were bi-metallic. He also told me that there was a dealer who had got these coins; to me this seemed a little odd, with it being so far ahead of the issue date. But that date got nearer. On 20-Feb-2007 in the Nigerian newspaper *The Guardian* (and likely others) there was a whole page advert, on page 42, it read...

“Our New Naira Notes and Coins Will Look Like This.” / (Notes of 5N, 10N, 20N and 50N depicted) / (reverse sides of coins of 50 Kobo, 1 Naira and 2 Naira depicted) / "WATCH OUT! 28TH FEBRUARY, 2007." / “Do not squeeze, stain, tear, spray, or write on the Naira.” / “This message is from the Central Bank of Nigeria. All Existing Naira Notes And Coins Remain Legal Tender.”

So yes, all went to plan, the 2006 dated coins of 50 Kobo, 1 Naira and 2 Naira were first issued for circulation on 28-Feb-2007, along with the new series of notes. Then one thing left—on 7-Jun-2007 I got hold of a sample of each of the new Nigerian coins. Those very coins are pictured in this article.

NI

New Botswana Coin

Bank of Botswana

The Bank of Botswana has issued a new series of coins dated 2013 and in response to enquiries regarding the new coins the bank issued a press release which is copied below. The bank website has beautiful images of the designs. The coins are now available in the numismatic market at prices of around \$15 per set of seven coins—Editor.

The Bank of Botswana has received enquiries from various media houses on the new coin, which was launched by His Excellency the President on February 27, 2014. For public education purposes, the Bank's general response on the issues raised is as follows:

Public Reaction

There will always be different views and/or reactions expressed by individuals whenever a new or different product is introduced. However, as the public gets more familiar with and used to the new coin, they will appreciate the new coin as an improvement on the old coin series.

Reasons for Change

The Bank adheres to international best practice for central banks where currency is periodically reviewed taking into account changes in technology, security features, counterfeiting trends, inflation, and cost of currency production as well as social, political, and economic circumstances. In the design and production of the new family of coin, the Bank utilised the latest technology in design and production in order to procure the best currency for Botswana in a cost effective manner.

Shapes

Coin processing is increasingly being automated, and round coin is easier for machines to handle than other shapes; hence almost all the new coin with the exception of the 5 thebe and 25 thebe are round. The shapes of 5 thebe and the 25 thebe were retained to enable the visually impaired to differentiate them from the 10 thebe and 50 thebe. Other distinguishing characteristics for the benefit of the visually impaired are the edge types where the 5 thebe, 25 thebe and 1 Pula have smooth edges, the 10 thebe, 50 thebe and 2 Pula have continuous serrations and the 5 Pula has interrupted serrations.

Metal and Colour

The colour of a coin is determined by the type of metal used in minting such coin or the plating material used. Traditionally, all coins were made of either pure metals such as copper or zinc, and later on, alloys such as brass, bronze, cupro-nickel became popular. With the general increase in prices of metals over the past several years, especially copper, which constitutes about 75 percent of most alloys used in coin production; many central banks have, on cost consideration, switched to plated steel. Some of the outgoing Botswana coin is still made of these expensive alloys. All the new coin is made of steel with the white (silver coloured) coin or part thereof, plated with nickel, the yellow ones or part thereof with brass and the brown part of the 2 Pula is plated with bronze.

Cost

Increase in financial transactions necessitates minting of more coin on an on-going basis regardless of whether it is new or old coin. The cost of coin is therefore, unavoidable.

Procurement

The Bank follows normal procurement procedures where reputable companies are asked to tender for the production and supply of either banknotes or coin. The Bank procures directly from the security printers (banknotes) and mints (coin). The new coin was minted and supplied by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Defects

While the Bank believes that the new coin is made to the highest standards, there may be a few defective coins that escaped quality control and may inadvertently be released into circulation. However, so far, there has been no evidence of any defects except instances of apparent deliberate mutilation of the coin. Any member of the public coming across defective coin is requested to surrender it to the Bank for a full refund. In the same way, members of the public are reminded that deliberate mutilation of either banknotes or coin is violation of the Bank of Botswana Act (CAP 55:01), which carries a fine of up to P2 500.

March 21, 2014

For further information, please contact: Mr. Andrew Sesinyi, Head of Communications, Tel: 3606083.

Specifications as published on bank website:

http://www.bankofbotswana.bw/assets/uploaded/New%20Botswana%20Coin%202013_4.pdf

	5 Pula	2 Pula	1 Pula	50 Thebe	25 Thebe	10 Thebe	5 Thebe
Diameter (mm)	28	27	26	24	22	20	18
Shape	Round				Heptagon	Round	Heptagon
Theme (Front)	Botswana Coat of Arms						
Theme (Back)	Phane worm on a Mophane tree branch and 5 Pula	Square lipped rhino, 2 Pula and sorghum heads	Zebra, 1 Pula, trees and birds	Fish Eagle and 50 Thebe	Brahman bull, 25 Thebe and Ipelegeng	Gemsbok and 10 Thebe	Hornbill and 5 Thebe
Edge	Interrupted serrations	Milled serrations	Smooth	Milled serrations	Smooth	Milled serrations	Smooth
Colour (Centre)	White	Brown	Yellow	White			
Colour (Outer ring)	Yellow	White					



5 Pula



2 Pula



1 Pula



50 Thebe



25 Thebe



10 Thebe



5 Thebe

Images from Bank of Botswana website.

http://www.bankofbotswana.bw/assets/uploaded/New%20Botswana%20Coin%202013_4.pdf

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Sir Isaac Newton's Report on the Gold and Silver Coin in 1717
Reprinted from *The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society*, Vol, XI, April, 1848.—January, 1849, pp. 181-85.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON'S REPORT ON THE GOLD AND SILVER COIN IN 1717. We are indebted to the kindness of Sir Henry Ellis for the following extract from "The Daily Courant," Monday, December 30, 1717.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.—May it please your Lordships: In obedience to your Lordships order of reference of August 12, that I should lay before your Lordships a state of the Gold and Silver Coins of this Kingdom in weight and fineness, and the value of Gold in proportion to Silver, with my observations and opinion, and what method may be best for preventing the melting down of the silver coin; I humbly represent, that a pound weight Troy of Gold, eleven ounces fine, and one ounce Allay, is cut into 44-1/2 Guineas, and a pound weight of Silver, eleven ounces two penny wt. fine, and eighteen penny weight Allay, is cut into 62 shillings, and according to this rate, a pound weight of fine Gold is worth 15 pounds weight 6 ounces, 17 penny weight and 5 grains of fine Silver, reckoning a guinea at £1, 1s. 6d. in Silver money. But Silver in Bullion exportable is usually worth 2d. or 3d. per ounce more than in Coin. And if at a medium, such Bullion of standard Allay be valued at 5s. 4d. halfpenny per ounce, a pound weight of fine gold will be worth but 14 pound weight 11 ounces, 12 penny weight 9 grains of fine silver in Bullion. And at this rate, a Guinea is worth but so much silver as would make 20s. 8d. When ships are lading for the East Indies, the demand of Silver for exportation raises the price to 5s. 6d. or 5s. 8d. per ounce, or above; but I consider not those extraordinary cases.

A Spanish Pistole was coined for 32 Reas, or 4 pieces of Eight Reas¹, usually called pieces of eight, and is of *equal Allay*, and the 16th *part of the weight thereof*. And a Doppio Moeda of Portugal was coined for 10 Crusadoes of Silver, and is of equal Allay, and the 16th part of the weight thereof; Gold is therefore in Spain and Portugal of 16 times more value than Silver of equal weight and Allay, according to the standard of those Kingdoms; at which rate a Guinea is worth 22s. 1d. But this high price keeps their gold at home in good plenty, and carries away the Spanish Silver into all Europe; so that at home they make their payments in Gold, and will not pay in Silver without a premium. Upon the coming in of a Plate Fleet the premium ceases, or is but small; but as their silver goes away and becomes scarce, the premium encreases, and is most commonly about 6 per cent, which being abated, a Guinea becomes worth about 20s. and 9d in Spain and Portugal.

¹ *MS. Note.*—Reas or Ryalls. wt may be ye meaning of being of equal Allay & ye 16th part of ye weight thereof y8 (*sic*) not plain. qy.

It may be that the Allay of ye Sp: Pistole is both ye 16th part of ye weight of ye Pistole, and ye Pistole in weight the 16th part of ye weight of 4 pieces of eight. This by wt follows seems to be the meaning since he says, "Gold is therefore in Spain of 16 times more value than Silver of equal weight and Allay. The same is said of Portugal Gold according to the standard of those Kingdoms, so 16 oz. Troy of Sp. & Por. gold contains 15 oz. Troy of fine gold & 1 oz. of Allay so ye standd in Sp: & Por: is better yan in England because ye Allay in England is the 1/12th of ye weight, and in Spain & Portugal ye Allay is but ye 1/16th & in ye wt of 16 oz. Troy there is as above 15 oz. fine gold, & but 1 oz. Allay.

In France, a pound weight of fine Gold is reckoned worth 15 pounds weight of fine silver; in raising or falling their money, their Kings Edicts have sometimes varied a little from this proportion, in excess or defect; but the variations have been so little, that I do not here consider them. By the Edict of May 1709, a new Pistole was coined for 4 new Lewises, and is of equal Allay, and the 15th part of the weight thereof, except the errors of their Mints. And by the same Edict fine Gold is valued at 15 times its weight of fine Silver, and at this rate a Guinea is worth 20s. 8d. halfpenny. I consider not here the confusion made in the monies in France by frequent Edicts to send them to the Mint, and give the King a tax out of them, I consider the value only of Gold and Silver in proportion to one another.

The Ducats of Holland, and Hungary, and the Empire, were lately current in Holland among the common people in their markets and ordinary affairs, at 5 Guilders in Specie, and five Stivers, and commonly changed for so much silver moneyes in three Guilder pieces, and Guilder pieces as Guineas are with us for 21s. 6d. sterling; at which rate, a Guinea is worth 20s. 7d. halfpenny.

According to the rates of Gold to Silver in Italy, Germany, Poland, Denmark, and Sweden, a Guinea is worth about 20s. and 7d. 6d. 5d. or 4d. for the proportion varies a little within the several Governments in those countries. In Sweden Gold is lowest in proportion to Silver, and this hath made that Kingdom, which formerly was content with copper money, abound of late with silver sent thither (I suspect) for Naval stores.

In the end of King William's reign and the first year of the late Queen, when foreign Coins abounded in England, I caused a great many of them to be assayed in the Mint, and found by the Assays, that fine Gold was to fine Silver in Spain, Portugal, France, Holland. Italy, Germany and the Northern Kingdoms, in the proportions above mentioned; errors of the Mints excepted.

In China and Japan, one pound weight of fine Gold is worth, but 9 or 10 pounds weight of fine Silver, and in East India it may be worth 12. And this low price of Gold in proportion to Silver, carries away the Silver from all Europe.

So then by the course of Trade and exchange between Nation and Nation in all Europe, fine gold is to fine silver as $14\frac{4}{5}$ or 15 to one; and a guinea at the same rate is worth between 20s. 5d. and 20s. 8d. halfpenny, except in extraordinary cases, as when a Plate fleet is just arrived in Spain, or Ships are lading here for the East Indies, which cases I do not here consider. And it appears by experience as well as by reason, that silver flows from those places where its value is lowest in proportion to Gold, as from Spain to all Europe, and from all Europe to the East Indies, China and Japan; and that Gold is most plentiful in those places, in which its value is highest in proportion to Silver, as in Spain and England.

It is the demand for exportation which hath raised the price of exportable silver about 2d. or 3d. in the ounce above that of Silver in Coin, and hath thereby created a temptation to export or melt down the Silver Coin, rather than give 2d. or 3d. more for foreign silver; and the demand for exportation arises from the higher price of silver in other places than in England in proportion to Gold, that is, from the higher price of Gold in England than in other places, in proportion to silver, and therefore may be diminished by lowering the value of Gold, in proportion to silver. If Gold in England or Silver in East India could be brought down so low as to bear the same proportion to one another in both places, there would be here no greater demand for

silver than for gold to be exported to India; and if gold were lowered only so as to have the same proportion to the silver money in England which it hath to silver in the rest of Europe, there would be no temptation to export Silver rather than Gold to any other part of Europe: and to compass this last, there seems nothing more requisite than to take off about 10*d.* or 12*d.* from the Guinea, so that Gold may bear the same proportion to the silver money in England, which it ought to do by the course of trade and exchange in Europe; but if only 6*d.* were taken off at present, it would diminish the temptation to export or melt down the Silver Coin, and by the effects, would shew hereafter better than can appear at present, what further reduction would be most convenient for the Publick.

In the last year of King William, the Dollars of Scotland worth about 4*s.* 6*d.* halfpenny, were put away in the North of England for 5*s.* and at this price began to flow in upon us: I gave notice thereof to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and they ordered the Collectors of Taxes to forbear taking them, and thereby put a stop to the mischief.

At the same time the Lewidors of France, which were worth but 17*s.* and three farthings a piece, passed in England at 17*s.* 6*d.* I gave notice thereof to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and his late Majesty put out a Proclamation that they should go but at 17*s.* and thereupon they came to the Mint, and £1,400,000 were coined out of them; and if the advantage of 5*d.* 1 farthing in a Lewidor sufficed at that time to bring into England so great a quantity of French money, and the advantage of three farthings in a Lewidor to bring it to the Mint, the advantage of 9*d.* half-penny in a Guinea, or above, may have been sufficient to bring the great quantity of Gold which hath been coined in these last 15 years without any foreign silver.

Some years ago the Portugall Moeders were received in the West of England at 28*s.* a piece; upon notice from the Mint that they were worth only about 27*s.* 7*d.* the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury ordered their receivers of taxes to take them at no more than 27*s.* 6*d.* Afterwards many Gentlemen in the West sent up to the Treasury a Petition that the Receivers might take them again at 28*s.* and promised to get returns for this money at that rate, alledging that when they went at 28*s.* their country was full of gold which they wanted very much: but the Commissioners of the Treasury considering that at 28*s.* the nation would lose 15*d.* a piece, rejected the Petition. And if an advantage to the Merchant of 5*d.* in 28*s.* did pour that money in upon us, much more hath an advantage to the Merchant of 9*d.* halfpenny in a guinea, or above, been able to bring into the Mint great quantities of Gold without any foreign silver, and may be able to do it still till the cause be removed.

If things be let alone till Silver money be a little scarcer, the Gold will fall of itself; for people are already backward to give Silver for Gold, and will in a little time refuse to make payments in Silver without a premium, as they do in Spain, and this premium will be an abatement in the value of the Gold: And so the question is, whether gold shall be lowered by the Government, or let alone till it falls of itself, by the want of Silver money.

It may be said that there are great quantities of Silver in plate, and if the plate were coined there would be no want of Silver money: But I reckon that silver is safer from exportation in the form of plate than in the form of money, because of the greater value of the silver and fashion together; and therefore I am not for coining the plate till the temptation to export the Silver money (which is a profit of 2*d.* or 3*d.* an ounce)

be diminished. For as often as men are necessitated to send away money for answering debts abroad, there will be a temptation to send away Silver rather than Gold, because of the profit which is almost 4 per cent: And for the same reason foreigners will chuse to send hither their Gold rather than their Silver.

All which is most humbly submitted to your Lordships great wisdom.

ISAAC NEWTON.

Mint Office, Sept 21. 1717.

[*The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society, Vol, XI, April, 1848.—January, 1849* accessed on internet 16-April-2014
<https://archive.org/details/numismaticserlv11royauoft>]

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...continued from page 61



Mopane with onions (Wikipedia)

Robert Ronus favors us with another informative article on European coins this time one on Aachen which was the hometown of Charlemagne. With my interest in the Protestant Reformation and with numismatics both this article really resonates with me; I hope that you enjoy it too.

Our lead article comes from Jorge Proctor who identifies the assayers at the Potosi mint working

during the reign of Philip III of Spain. Potosi coins are very popular with cob collectors and the interest in assayers is high because their identifying marks are included in the design of the coins. A challenge that numismatists face is deciphering the marks and determining who the assayers were. Slowly we are discovering who the colonial Spanish American assayers were and Jorge's present article clears many mysteries. He has meticulously transcribed original documents to support his analysis and to aid other researchers. These transcriptions are a valuable aid to the researcher and I commend Jorge for making these available and for offering NI the opportunity to publish them.

Finally we have an article from a guest contributor who wrote long ago. I won't give away his name yet as he is the subject of our quiz too. The article is interesting for the author as well as for its contents.

Herman Blanton